

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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NEW SOVIET BID FOR GERMAN SOLUTION

All-German elections should be held as soon as possible, if necessary under international control, the Soviet Government stated in an official declaration issued in Moscow on January 15th.

Main points of the new Soviet proposals were:

1. The Four Great Powers should meet to arrange the holding of All-German elections this year with full guarantees for the freedom of all democratic parties throughout Germany. These elections could be held under international supervision, if the governments of East and West Germany agree.

2. The Soviet Union is ready to open normal relations with West Germany.

3. If the Paris Agreements should be ratified, a new position would be created which would make negotiations on German unity impossible. The Soviet Union would then take steps to strengthen the cooperation of the peace-loving states in Europe.

Here is part of the text of the Soviet declaration:

"Not only the Soviet Union, but also many other European and non-European states regard the West European Union and the North Atlantic Block as aggressive military groupings, and regard the entry of the German Federal Republic (West Germany) into this military grouping, directed against the Soviet Union and the peace-loving states, as an act which will lead to increased danger of a new war in Europe.

"The Paris Agreements are contrary to the interests of the German people because they will consolidate the partitioning of Germany for many years, and form an obstacle to the peaceful restoration of German unity.

"It is quite clear that it is impossible for the peace-loving German Democratic Republic to be united with a militarised German Federal Republic which has been drawn into military groupings. The ratification of the Paris Agreements cannot be reconciled with the restoration of Germany as a united, peace-loving state.

"The allegation has recently been made in the German Federal Republic and also in Britain, France and other countries that the ratification of the Paris Agreements will not hinder, but will actually help in negotiations on the German problem and other international problems.

"The Soviet Government has already pointed out that such claims have no basis in fact, and are only intended to mislead public opinion...

"In view of this attitude on the part of the Governments of the United States, Britain and France, which is crassly opposed to the international obligations of these nations on the question of restoring Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state, the reunification of Germany now depends mainly upon the Germans themselves, and the attitude of the German people.



"But you must promise not to use them"

("People's Voice", Auckland, New Zealand)

(continued on next page)

(cont. from front page)

NEW SOVIET BID

"The final debate on the ratification of the Paris Agreements is due to take place in the West German Parliament in February. The future of Germany depends, in great degree, on the decision taken here, and this is quite clear to the biggest parties and trade unions of West Germany, which are in close touch with the people and the German working class, and which oppose ratification.

"At the present there are still opportunities to reach agreement on the reunification of Germany with proper respect for the rightful interests of the German people, and on the holding of all-German free elections for this purpose during 1955. Such opportunities exist if the main obstacle to German reunification is removed — the plans to remilitarise West Germany and include it in military alliances.

"The German people must have a chance to express its free will by means of general free elections in the whole of Germany, including Berlin, so that a unified Germany may rise again and take its proper place amongst the other powers.

"In these elections the democratic rights of the German citizens must be guaranteed. The electoral law to be worked out for these elections, on the basis of the electoral laws prepared by the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic must guarantee to every voter the right to express his wishes, and must guarantee to all democratic parties and organisations liberty in electoral propaganda in the whole of Germany and liberty to put up candidates and electoral lists.

"In order to make it easier to agree on the holding of such elections, the Soviet Union believes it is possible to reach agreement on the establishment of a suitable international control on the holding of all-German elections, if the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic give their consent.

"For this purpose neither part of Germany may be bound by any form of separate agreement on participation in military alliances.

"The Soviet Government believes that the question of the future state order in a united Germany must be decided by the German people themselves, and that it is the task of the other states to make their contribution so that Germany shall march along the road of peaceful and democratic development.

"The holding of all-German free elections and the restoration of the unity of Germany would also provide the necessary preconditions for the conclusion of a German peace treaty finally guaranteeing the independence, sovereignty and equal status of a unified Germany...

"The German people must decide which path they wish to follow.

"One path leads to the restoration of Germany unity and normal relations with all European states. This path precludes participation of either part of Germany in military alliances directed against other states, and can best be guaranteed by German participation in a system of collective security in Europe.

"The other path, along which the Paris Agreements would drag Germany, is the path which consolidates the partitioning of Germany, and leads to the re-establishment of militarism in West Germany and the inclusion of West Germany in the plans for the preparation of a new war. There can be no doubt that the overwhelmi-

ing majority of the German people reject this path of new and hopeless war adventures, a path which Germany has trodden more than once, and which offers nothing but renewed and still more bitter suffering, for the German people.

"In contrast to the militarist path which German development has taken in the past, the reunification of Germany and its participation in a system of collective security in Europe will open the most favourable possibilities for the development of German peace economy, and for the development of far-reaching economic relations between Germany and other countries, particularly the countries of eastern Europe and of Asia with their huge populations and their inexhaustible resources...

"Such a path for the development of Germany is in accordance with the national interests of the German people, and also serves to ensure peace in Europe and the whole world.

"All these facts allow the Soviet Government to draw the following conclusions:

"1. The most important and urgent task for the solution of the German problem is the solution of the question of the restoration of German unity. To solve this problem negotiations are necessary between the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union on the questions of the restoration of German unity and the basis for the holding of all-German free elections. Such negotiations will lose their sense and become impossible if the Paris agreements are ratified.

"2. The Soviet Union maintains good relations with the German Democratic Republic. The Soviet Government is ready to normalise relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic.

"Under the present circumstances a normalisation of the relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic can lead to better mutual understanding, and to the search for more successful methods of solving the problem of restoring German unity.

"3. If the Paris Agreements are ratified, a new situation will be created in which the Soviet Union will not only further strengthen friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic, but will also see to it that a contribution is made to the stabilisation of peace and security in Europe through the mutual efforts of the peace-loving European states."

(Unofficial translation from German)

Big British Exhibit at Next Leipzig Fair

British firms will have a bigger exhibit than ever at the spring Leipzig Trade Fair, from February 27th to March 9th this year. The firms exhibiting at the fair include Standard Motors, the Brush Engineering Group, and many others.

For the first time since the war, France will be represented at the fair by an official exhibit arranged with the help of the French Ministry of Trade.

Up to the end of 1954, 30 foreign countries had applied for space at the fair.

West German firms, eager to extend trade with eastern countries, have booked twice as much exhibition space as in the 1954 fair, and not all requests can be met because of the shortage of exhibition halls.

WEST GERMANY FIGHTS BACK

Unions Urge Anti-Wehrmacht Vote

West German trade unionists, Social Democrats and Communists marked the first weeks of January by a wave of demonstrations, strikes and other actions against remilitarisation and the formation of a new Wehrmacht.

Here are reports from all parts of West Germany on the action taken:

The delegates to the provincial conference of the West German Trade Union Federation in Bavaria on January 15th and 16th unanimously called for the holding of a plebiscite in Bavaria against remilitarisation. The provincial conference called on the Central Board of the West German Trade Unions to "take all necessary measures to prevent the rearmament of West Germany."

On January 10th the Social Democratic Party staged a mass meeting in the harbour town of Bremerhaven, which unanimously resolved to appeal to the West German Parliament to reject the Paris Agreements in second reading. Social Democratic Parliament member Peter Blachstein promised the meeting that his party would organise a mass movement against remilitarisation. Harald Rakowski, chairman of the Bremerhaven Young Trade Unionists stated "We shall force our colleagues in the trade union leadership to put the fight against the Wehrmacht on the agenda."

In Hamburg, dock workers, in the course of trade union negotiations for higher pay, have rejected the employer's demand that all dockers must sign a document expressing their willingness to work on all cargoes, including munitions shipments.

On January 10th the municipal council of the town of Hirsau, American Zone, unanimously decided to refuse to allow demolition chambers to be built into bridges in the town. In Nuertingen peace fighters tore down the scaffolding being used in constructing demolition chambers in

the bridges across the river Neckar.

Workers of the Vogelsang Factory in Bielefeld unanimously approved a resolution addressed to the West German Trade Union Federation calling for a general strike against remilitarisation.

On January 11th, a speaker from the West German War Ministry, Dr. Pollmann, was silenced by the 600 students of the Wuppertal Pedagogic Academy when he tried to speak to them on the "tasks of the New Wehrmacht".

On January 11th, at a conference called in Cologne by the West German Trade Union Federation, Peter Claasen, deputy chairman of the North-Rhine-Westphalian section of the Federation called for a march on Bonn

to prevent ratification of the Paris Agreements. "Protest actions against ratification must start in the factories immediately" Claasen stated. "A stream of delegations must be sent to Bonn to urge parliament to vote against the Paris Agreements."

On January 14th and 15th nearly 30,000 steel workers in the Ruhr came out on 24 hour protest strikes. Reason for the strikes, which had full support from the steel workers union, was the recent attempts made by employers to reduce the co-determination rights of the workers, won a few years ago after difficult industrial struggles. Cancellation of these rights would be the first step towards the resumption of war production in the steel industry.

Nazi Editor for West Berlin Paper

Dr. Karl Silex, who edited the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" in Berlin for ten years under Hitler has been appointed editor in chief of the "Tagesspiegel", extreme right-wing West Berlin newspaper which receives a large U.S. subsidy.

During Dr. Silex's period of editorship the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" fanatically supported all Nazi plans and acts of aggression, and the anti-semitic campaign.

Dr. Silex, who served as a German journalist in London before Hitler came to power is known for his book "John Bull at Home", published in 1932. This consists of 290 pages of misunderstandings about Britain. In his introduction Dr. Silex states: "England and Germany... ought to back each other up."

West German Youth Oppose Call-Up

The overwhelming majority of young people in West Germany oppose the formation of a new Wehrmacht, a public opinion poll arranged by the Social Democratic paper "Hamburger Morgenpost" shows.

60% of all those asked declared that they would refuse service in the

Wehrmacht, 26% declined to answer, and only 13% declared they had no particular objection.

Only 4% of all those asked thought it was right to establish a new Wehrmacht at this moment, and over 60% thought that the establishment of an army was wrong at this or any other time.

More Agricultural Cooperatives

In the past year the number of agricultural production cooperatives in the German Democratic Republic has grown from 4800 to 5108, and the number of peasant cooperators from 137,600 to 157,567.

Hitler's Luftwaffe General Back

Adolf Galland, Nazi air ace, and last Inspector General of Hitler's Luftwaffe, is returning to West Germany, the West German official news agency DPA reported on January 6th.

Galland fled to Argentina on the collapse of Nazi Germany, and has since been working as adviser to the Argentine Air Force. He is expected to receive a high rank in the new West German Luftwaffe being formed as a result of the Paris Agreements.

BRICKS AND HOW TO DROP THEM

By Dave Michaelson

By an extraordinary chance, I was able to smuggle myself into the first session of a new school for diplomats and their wives which has just been started in West Germany.

A brief report follows:

The class on "How in Enemy Territories Oneself to Conduct (1. England)" was taken by Baron von Rek, a diplomat of the Old School.

Baron von Rek: Now ladies and gentlemen, following the most unfortunate incident with our poor Frau Daisy Schlitter in London, we must all put our best foot foremost when opening our mouths to avoid either (1) placing in it the foot, or (2) dropping in it a brick, as the Englisch idiom has it.

At this stage in the development of our Fatherland (all rise and extend their right hand in a kind of Roman salute) we must all be extremely democratic and careful to give an impression of peaceful friendship—until we are strong enough to force these swine to be friendly.

Most of us here have spent long periods in jail as war criminals, but we are all good anti-Nazis (laughter). In spite of Herr Lord Churchill's well-known sympathy for our Cause, expressed as far back as 1945, the Englisch public have not yet been re-educated to the necessary stage.

In the meantime they must be kept quiet until our atomic energy programme is far enough advanced to show them what diplomacy really means (loud laughter).

Now, Frau Flitter, supposing you were making a speech on the re-opening of a school in England which had been regrettably bombed by our valiant airmen. What would you say as a result of your studies here?

Frau Flitter: Dear Englisch children, I am very sorry that your school was cracked during the war, but you must remember that your murdering R.A.F....

Baron: No, No, Frau Flitter. Diplomacy is the art of not saying what you mean.

You should say: I am happy to present this tree to your school, and we are willing to give an estimate for the entire heating plant at very favourable terms.

Now, Herr Nuss, supposing you were conversing at a dinner party with a British R.A.F. Marshal. How would you keep the conversation light and airy?

Herr Nuss: My dear, Marshal, I have long admired your great R.A.F. I think you will agree that we should get together—at least in the first stages of the next war—to eliminate the danger from the East. After that will come your turn...

Baron: No, no, Herr Nuss. That is not tactful. Say rather: We are both branches of the great Anglo-Saxon race. We bear you no illwill for beating us twice. Like you, we are sportsmen. Third time lucky, as you Englisch say.

Then dig him in the ribs and present him with a bottle of champagne and a sausage made up to look like a Zeppelin. That is the way to succeed with the Englisch nobility, who are all drunkards and gluttons.

It is always useful to start off a conversation with the Englisch like this: I have long been an admirer of your Lord Churchill and Lord Monty, and we could sell them a very cheap filing system.

Now with your money and our brains we could conquer the world and divide it up between us. So you see, gentlemen, in this way you will establish those close relations of trust which are so important in our calling.

Tomorrow we shall study: "A Tactful After-Dinner Speech to a British ex-Servicemen's Rally"; your homework is "Awkward Situations, No. 8;

Light Conversation on Meeting an Englisch ex-Inmate of a Concentration Camp of which you were Kommandant."

(From "Daily Worker", London)

(The paragraphs above are fiction, but in this case truth is even more appalling than fiction.)

West German Ambassador Elect in London is Heinz Heinrich von Herwarth. He served in the German Foreign Ministry during the entire nazi period, from 1933 to 1939 as Legation Secretary in Moscow and from 1939 to 1945 as liaison officer of the nazi Foreign Ministry with the Wehrmacht.

One of the Embassy secretaries in the West German Embassy in London today is Dr. Felix Gerte, former officer in the SS, the nazi elite troops.

West Germany Ambassador in Norway is Georg von Broich-Oppert, former contact man between Hitler and the nazi underground which helped overthrow Austrian independence.

Ambassador for Special Duties in the West German Foreign Office is Dr. Werner von Barga, who played an active part in nazi deportations from France and Germany during the war.

And these are only four specimens of the hundreds of nazis and nazi supporters who fill the diplomatic service of the West German state. 85 per cent of leading West German Foreign Ministry employees used to work in the nazi Foreign Ministry under Ribbentrop.)

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1945-1955

TEN YEARS OF GERMAN HISTORY

1945

February 12th: Crimea Conference between Britain, United States and Soviet Union decides on quadripartite occupation of Germany at end of war. Conference statement announced: "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and nazism and to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world."

May 8th: Hostilities in Europe cease at 23.01 Central European Time, after German military leaders Keltel, Stumpf and Friedeburg signed unconditional surrender.

May 19th: Antifascists form Berlin Municipal Administration with slogan "Antifascists will guarantee rebirth of the German people."

June 5th: Four-Power Allied Control Council, with seat in Berlin, takes over supreme power throughout Germany.

June 10th: Soviet Military Administration permits formation of German democratic parties and trade unions aimed at "finally liquidating fascism, stabilising democracy."

July 11th: Inter-Allied Military Commandatura takes over control of the whole of Berlin.

July 23rd: Soviet Military Administration orders nationalisation of banking and insurance in East Germany.

August 2nd: Stalin, Truman and Attlee sign Potsdam Agreement, pledging extermination of militarism and nazism; reconstruction of German political life on democratic basis; destruction of cartels, and other industrial monopolies; treatment of Germany as single economic unit; Oder-Neisse line as Germany's eastern frontier; transfer to Germany of German minorities in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

September 3rd: East German land reform. Estates exceeding 250 acres split amongst poor farmers and agricultural labourers.

October 30th: Order No. 124 issued by Soviet Military Administration clears way for nationalisation of factories belonging to active nazis and to war criminals.

1946

April 22nd: East German Communist Party and Social Democratic Parties combine in Berlin to form Socialist Unity Party, and demand the formation of indivisible free German Republic.

June 30th: Referendum in Saxony, East Germany, results in majority of 77.7% for proposal to nationalise property of active nazis and war criminals. Nationalisation measures decided in other East German provinces in course of July and August 1946, with the result that most heavy industry is taken over from former nazis owners.

July 12th: Conference of Four Foreign Ministers in Paris ends without result after western representatives evade Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov's proposal for formation of united Germany and conclusion of peace treaty.

September 5th: British and U. S. Military Governors sign agreement on formation of Bi-zone, economic unit comprising British and U. S. occupation zones.

September 12th: Establishment at Minden, British Zone, of the Bizonal Economic Council, forerunner of the West German Federal Government.

October 16th: Twelve leading nazi war criminals executed at Nuremberg.

1947

April 24th: End of Foreign Ministers' Conference in Moscow. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov proposes land reform and nationalisation of industrial monopolies throughout Germany; he urges the conclusion of peace treaty with united Germany, not imposition of treaty upon Germany without consultation.

June 6th: German Economic Commission, with extended powers for German department heads, established in Soviet Zone.

June 9th: Prime Ministers of all German provinces in all four occupation zones meet in Munich. Conference breaks up when western prime ministers, on American orders, refuse to discuss formation of All-German Government.

July 30th: Western representatives in Control Council refuse to receive Soviet Zone provincial prime ministers who wish to present programme calling for German central administration, all-German land reform, exclusion of nazis from posts of economic responsibility.

August 26th: Western Commandants in Berlin Commandatura veto nationalisation of industry bill passed by Berlin Municipality.

September 11th: Land reform practically completed in Soviet Zone; big estates broken up, providing farms for 500,000 landless farmers and agricultural workers.

November 21st: Soviet Military Governor Marshal Sokolovsky discloses at Control Council meeting that western powers had "made practically no progress" in demilitarising West Germany. "The sabotage of demilitarisation and the preservation of war potential in the British and American Zones can only have the purpose of converting these zones into an Anglo-American military base in the heart of Europe."

November 25th: Soviet Zone parties issue call for all-German People's Congress for unity and peace.

December 6th: People's Congress, meeting in Berlin, elects delegation to present German viewpoint at London Foreign Ministers' Conference. British authorities refuse visas.

December 15th: End of London Foreign Ministers' Conference, at which Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov proposes immediate creation of democratic German government which could sign proposed peace treaty.

1948

March 3rd: End of conference in London between three western powers and Benelux states on West Germany, particularly its inclusion in Marshall Plan. Soviet Union not invited.

March 20th: Marshal Sokolovsky protests in Control Council against London Conference (see March 3rd above) which had "torn up the agreement on control

machinery in Germany... By their actions the (western representatives) confirm that the Control Council no longer exists as supreme authority in Germany." Control Council meetings not resumed.

June 2nd: Three western powers and Benelux countries meeting in London approve establishment of separate West German state.

June 20th: Separate currency reform in West Germany, without previous consultation with Soviet authorities, who immediately close zonal borders to prevent East Germany being flooded with devalued Reichsmarks.

June 23rd: Currency reform in East Germany.

June 24th: East European Foreign Ministers meet in Warsaw, call for all-German Government, conclusion of peace treaty, and withdrawal of all occupation troops from Germany within one year of treaty signing.

November 11th: New East Berlin administration formed under Lord Mayor Friedrich Ebert after separatist administration under U. S. influence has been established for western sectors.

1949

May 16th: Elections to People's Congress in East Germany. 66% of voters support joint list of candidates proposed by Democrats, Liberal Democrats, Socialist Unity Party and other groups.

May 12th: Traffic restrictions between West Germany and West Berlin, in force since currency reform in June 1948, brought to an end by Four Power agreement.

July 2nd: Paris meeting of Foreign Ministers ends. Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky urges central German administration and speedy conclusion of peace treaty. Western foreign ministers propose that proposed western constitution be extended to all Germany, and occupation be prolonged.

September 7th: West German separate state founded in Bonn. Konrad Adenauer Chancellor.

October 7th: German Democratic Republic formed in Berlin. German People's Council reconstituted as Provisional People's Chamber. Otto Grotewohl Prime Minister.

October 13th: Stalin's telegram greeting German Democratic Republic as "turning point in the history of Europe".

November 22nd: Adenauer signs "Petersberg Agreement" with western High Commissioners, with secret clause on the formation of new West German Wehrmacht.

1950

May 5th: Soviet Union halves reparations payments still to be made by East Germany.

July 7th: Prime Ministers of Poland and German Democratic Republic sign treaty on final delimitation of Polish-German frontier on Oder-Neisse line.

July 24th: Socialist Unity Party Congress in Berlin decides on Five Year Plan (1951-55) for German Democratic Republic.

September 18th: Three western foreign ministers, meeting in New York, propose "West German participation in an integrated force for the defence of European freedom" — in effect the revival of the Wehrmacht.

October 15th: General elections in German Democratic Republic. Overwhelming majority for candidates of National Front, representing all democratic parties.

October 21th: Prague meeting of East European Foreign Ministers, including German Democratic Republic, demands return to principles of Potsdam Declaration, formation of all-German Constituent Assembly on basis of parity, peace treaty with a united Germany.

October 26th: West German War Ministry formed in Bonn under camouflage name "Office for Accommodation of Occupation Troops."

November 30th: Grotewohl writes to Adenauer proposing direct discussion to form All-German Constituent Council.

1951

January 15th: Adenauer replies to Grotewohl's offer, posing conditions.

January 20th: East German People's Chamber offers to discuss free elections, People's Police, and other matters at issue with West German Parliament. This offer repeated many times during 1951, 1952 and 1953, always rejected or left unanswered by West German authorities.

June 21st: Meeting of Four Deputy Foreign Ministers in Paris breaks down after Western representatives decline Soviet proposal to discuss demilitarisation and democratisation of Germany.

August 5th: World Youth Festival in Berlin.

December 11th: East German representatives tell United Nations Political Committee in Paris that All-German elections are internal affair of German people, and reject suggestion for U. N. Investigation Commission.

1952

February 24th: North Atlantic Pact Conference in Lisbon includes West Germany in "North Atlantic Block".

February 26th: West German Government approves monthly contribution of 850 million marks to "European Army".

March 10th: Soviet Union submits draft of peace treaty to be concluded with Germany to Western Powers. Main points of draft treaty are:

1. Germany shall be restored as united state.
2. All occupation forces to be withdrawn within one year of signature.
3. Human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed to German people.
4. Freedom for democratic parties.
5. Ban on organisations opposed to democracy and peace.
6. Civil rights for former nazis except war criminals.
7. Germany to enter no alliance or coalition directed against any state whose armed forces took part in war against Germany.
8. German territory shall be as laid down in Potsdam Agreement (i. e. Oder-Neisse River forms Polish-German frontier).
9. No restrictions on German economy and international trade.
10. Germany shall be entitled to maintain armed forces for defence.
11. Germany shall be admitted to United Nations.

March 13th: West German State Secretary Hallstein demands in Washington "Integration of Europe up to the Urals".

May 26th, 27th: Adenauer signs Bonn and Paris treaties, prolonging western occupation for 50 years and pledging formation of new West German Wehrmacht.

October 1st: General Chulikov, Chairman of Soviet Control Commission, demands that western powers close terrorist centres in West Berlin.

1953

March 3rd: West German Parliament ratifies Bonn and Paris Treaties.

June 11th: East German Government decides on "new course" aimed at improving standard of living of workers, peasants and middle class; and other measures designed to facilitate achievement of German unity.

June 17th: Fascist provocateurs and foreign agents provoke riots, commit arson in Berlin and other East German cities in attempt to upset government's "new course".

August 22nd: Negotiations in Moscow between East Germany and Soviet Union result in cancellation of further reparations payments, reduction of occupation costs to 5% of budget, other far-reaching modifications.

September 6th: West German general elections strengthen right wing in Bonn parliament; many former nazis and militarists elected.

September 7th: Adenauer declares in Bonn: "Time has come to speak not of reunification of Germany, but of liberation of East Zone".

October 9th: Adenauer forms new West German cabinet containing two former SS officers and two SA officers.

October 24th: 14th and biggest price reduction since 1948 in East Germany.

November 22nd: East German Government proposes to West German Government ending of reparations and reduction of occupation costs similar to those carried out in East.

November 25th: East German Government announces once again its readiness to confer with West Germany on all problems to lead to peaceful solution of German problem, particularly interzonal trade, strength of police, all-German ban on militarist literature.

1954

January 25th: Four Power Conference in Berlin.

January 28th: British Foreign Minister Eden submits western five-point plan:

1. General all-German elections under four-power supervision. Electoral Law to be drawn up without German participation.
2. National Assembly thus elected will draw up constitution. Four power supervisory commission will remain in operation.
3. National Assembly may open peace treaty negotiations.
4. All-German Government to be formed, assuming the international rights and obligations of present East and West German Governments.
5. All states at war with Germany shall sign peace treaty.

February 2nd: Western Foreign Ministers finally reject East and West German representation at conference.

February 4th: Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov submits plan for German reunification:

1. Formation of provisional government from existing East and West German governments.
2. Withdrawal of all occupation troops except small control contingents.
3. Subsequent all-German free elections under electoral law drawn up by Germans themselves "guaranteeing genuine freedom which would preclude pressure upon voters by big monopolies", and without interference by foreign powers. The western foreign ministers reject proposal.

February 10th: Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov makes new proposals for neutralising Germany:

1. All occupation troops should be withdrawn within six months, apart from small control detachments.
2. East and West Germany should be allowed police units, the size and armament of which should be fixed by the Four Powers.
3. A European Security Treaty should be concluded between all European states. The western foreign ministers reject proposal.

February 17th: Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov proposes establishment of all-German committees on trade, finance, transport, culture, sports etc.

In a second proposal he suggests that the Four Powers should reach agreement "concerning German police in East and West Germany, including questions of the number and armament of all types of police". The western foreign ministers ignore the two proposals.

February 18th: Berlin Conference closes. Final communique states: "The four ministers have had a full exchange of views on the German question... but they were unable to reach agreement."

March 19th: West German Upper House of Parliament passed constitutional amendment permitting conscription to new Wehrmacht.

March 25th: German Democratic Republic became fully sovereign state, Soviet Union announced. Soviet occupation troops remain "temporarily" to guarantee security as laid down by four power agreement.

March 29th: West German President Heuss signs ratification of EDC treaty.

June 29th: Plebiscite in German Democratic Republic on the question: "Are you in favour of a peace treaty and the withdrawal of the occupation troops, or in favour of EDC, the Bonn Treaty and of occupation troops remaining for fifty years?" Over 93% of voters voted for peace treaty and against EDC.

July 15th: East German Socialist Unity Party invites British Labour Party to send delegation to German Democratic Republic to "convince themselves on the spot of the peaceful intentions and democratic development here."

July 16th: Government of German Democratic Republic, replying to allegations in a British White Paper about East German police forces declares once again its readiness to negotiate at any time with West Germany on the strength, armament and stationing of police forces in East and West Germany. West Germany ignores the offer.

July 20th: Dr. Otto John, chief of West German security service, moves to German Democratic Republic because "remilitarisation and renazification in West Germany is inevitably leading to new war".

July 25th: Soviet Government sends notes to Britain, France and United States proposing creation of European Security System and neutralisation of Germany.

August 26th: West German Parliamentarian Karl-Franz Schmitt-Wittmack of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party seeks asylum in East Germany, and reveals that Bonn Government is planning Wehrmacht at least 48 divisions strong.

August 30th: French Parliament rejects EDC.

September 18th: Soviet Union proposes Four Power conference on European security and the German problem.

September 19th: Parliament of the German Democratic Republic proposes all-German talks with representatives of West German parliament on following points:

1. European security.
2. Peace treaty and sovereignty for the whole of Germany, and withdrawal of occupation troops.

3. Neither part of Germany to conclude military pacts.
4. Joint steps to ban atomic weapons, and prevent their manufacture or stationing in Germany.
5. Agreement on police forces in both parts of Germany. The proposals were ignored in West Germany.

October 6th: Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, in Berlin speech, made following proposals:

1. All occupation troops should be immediately withdrawn from both parts of Germany.
2. The Four Powers should discuss all-German free elections on the basis of proposals made by both sides at the Ber in Conference in January-February 1954, or any other proposals.
3. East and West Germany should try to come nearer by forming all-German economic and cultural bodies.

October 9th: West German Trade Union Congress voted almost unanimously to reject all West German rearmament "as long as all attempts at negotiation have not been exhausted".

October 17th: General elections in the German Democratic Republic resulted in an overwhelming victory for the candidates of the National Front, who stand on a programme of reunification and no new Wehrmacht.

October 23rd: Western powers sign Paris Agreements, providing for establishment of "Western European Union" and establishment of West German Wehrmacht.

Soviet Union again proposes immediate withdrawal of all occupation troops and the holding of free all-German elections.

December 2nd: Representatives of the Soviet Union, European People's Democracies and German Democratic Republic, meeting in Moscow, issued declaration strongly opposing West German rearmament. Main points were:

1. Abandonment of rearmament plans for West Germany.
2. Free all-German elections in 1955, and subsequent formation of all-German government.

The declaration warned "If Paris Agreements are ratified, we shall be forced to take joint steps to increase defensive strength."

December 9th: Soviet Union warns in notes to western powers that Paris Agreements "cannot be reconciled with Potsdam Agreement" and are breach of Franco-Soviet pact of 1944.

December 16th: West German Parliament ratifies Paris Agreements in first reading.

December 30th: French Parliament ratifies Paris Agreements in first reading.

December 31st: Representatives of Polish, Czechoslovak and East German Parliaments, meeting in Prague, state that their countries will have to take joint defence measures if Paris Agreements are ratified.

1955

January 15th: Soviet Government proposed Four Power negotiations on democratic all-German elections under suitable international control if East and West German Governments approved such control. Soviet Government also offered to normalise relations with West Germany, but warned that ratification of Paris Agreements would make German reunification impossible.

New York Times Admits:

8000 GERMANS MONTHLY CHOOSE EAST

"Bonn, Germany, Dec. 31 — The flight of Communist-governed Germans from the Eastern Zone to West Germany decreased this year by two-thirds. In the last months of the year two Germans from the Western Federal Republic went to East Germany for every three who came the opposite way...

A somewhat unexpected development, particularly in the final months of this year, has been the steady increase of the flow from West Germany to Communist East Germany. The number of those going to Communist-governed Germany has been running between 8000 and 9000 monthly compared with a monthly figure of about 12,000 coming west...

The tendency is to abandon the whole idea that people now crossing the frontier between the two Germanies are refugees. The actual refugee from political persecution in Communist East Germany has now become rare. Officially 2 per cent are recognised as refugees...

This year the East German Government has accepted returning former residents without troubling more than a few of them.

However, more than 4000 regular West German residents monthly have been going to East Germany recently. The West German authorities' information indicates that few of these were Communists. Most of them went to Communist Germany seeking economic opportunity...

East Germany badly needs certain types of workers and professional men.

The general feeling here is that, since the refugee period has come to an end, what is now taking place is a normal flow of population in both directions seeking better individual opportunities."

(New York Times, January 1st 1954)

40,000 Young Germans Move

More than 40,000 young people from West Germany moved to East Germany between May and December 1954, it was officially announced in Berlin. They made the move because they did not wish to serve in the new West German Wehrmacht, and because good jobs and the chance to get ahead are only available in the German Democratic Republic.

Books from Democratic Germany

Londoners will be able to see samples of the book production of the German Democratic Republic at a special exhibition at Collet's Book Gallery, 45 Museum Street W.C.1 from February 4th to March 2nd this year.

Nearly one thousand books will be on show, covering all fields from printing textbooks to fairy stories for children.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR SCHWEITZER

Birthday greetings from the German Democratic Republic were sent to Albert Schweitzer on January 14th, his eightieth birthday.

The greetings telegram, signed by Johannes R. Becher, East German Minister of Culture, stated: "We honour in you a great humanist, writer and doctor who has worked all his life long for humanity and peace. May you be granted many more to work for the welfare of people of all colours and races in the spirit of understanding."

Bonn Bans Thomas Mann Film

Plans to make a joint East-West German film of the famous novel "The Buddenbrooks" by Thomas Mann have broken down, following a West German Government ban.

All arrangements had been completed for the making of the film, which was to have been done jointly by DEFA, the nationally-owned East German film company, and a West German company. The West German Government then warned the West German company that it should not cooperate. The reason given was the fear of "Communist infiltration".

(Thomas Mann, who will be 80 this year, published "The Buddenbrooks" in 1901.)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

Several letters I have received from readers recently have rather surprised me, for they have shown that despite all the evidence many people in the western world refuse to believe that the United States Government, the West German Government, and probably other governments too, are actively engaged in sending saboteurs and murderers into East Germany and other "eastern" countries.

Typical Letter

A typical letter from a reader in Chicago said: "I know that what you say about West German rearmament is true, and about the support which our government is giving to this project, but I cannot credit the reports you have frequently published about 'American-financed saboteurs'. Of course the Voice of America carries on a propaganda offensive, but that is different."

Obviously this reader is not also a reader of the "Saturday Evening Post", the glossy-paper weekly which goes into so many millions of American homes, or he would know better.

On October 30th, November 6th and November 13th last year this magazine published a series of articles entitled "The Mysterious Doings of CIA" by Richard and Gladys Harkness, which was described as an "Exclusive report on America's 'silent service' — the supersecret Central Intelligence Agency".

Murder Boasts

And this series of articles proudly boasted of the work of murder done by this official US agency. It is a big agency too, as this quotation will show:

"CIA employees number between 8000 and 12,000 anonymous men and women whose duties, salaries and even names never appear on published government payrolls. The total cost of CIA operations runs several hundred million dollars a year."

And what do they do with all that money? That is explained at length:

"Besides its spy network and the open CIA function of research, the agency operates a superclandestine third force — the top-secret activity

By John Peet

of aiding and abetting freedom forces where the patriotism of captive peoples may be fanned into a spark of action".

(Of course the phrase "captive peoples" as used in Saturday Evening Post does not mean the peoples of Puerto Rico or other colonial areas, but the People's Democracies.)

"In one satellite, where factory workers were grousing about Red pay cuts and stepped-up norms, an agent trained in the technique of labor organisations promoted work slowdowns. In another country, where the resistance movement is small but daring, a CIA agent dispatched a band of saboteurs to a trestle on the main Red rail supply line. Under cover of night the underground leader attached a small piece of gooey plastic explosive to a main timber as simply as a schoolgirl would stick her chewing gum to the underside of the seat at the moving pictures. The next day the Red-controlled press called for the arrest of 'foreign and criminal elements responsible for attacks against the state' in blowing up another 'people's bridge'."

Remember this paragraph the next time you read a scare story in the big-business press about "poor innocent people arrested in East Germany (or Poland, China, etc.) on obviously framed charges of sabotage". The

chances are they were paid by the American taxpayers.

Another West German M. P.

"Manteuffel, Hasso von; business employee; address: 68 Nordkanal Allee, Neuss, Deputy of the Free Democratic Party.

"Born in Potsdam, January 14th 1897. Married, two children. 1907 to 1916, educated in cadet corps, then professional officer. Participant in both world wars, finally General and commander of a Panzer Army. Mainly active on eastern front, also in Africa and from Autumn 1944 in the west. Many times wounded, holder of highest German decorations for valour. May 1945 to December 1947 in prisoner of war camp. Since September 1948 export manager in a screw factory. 1949 joined Free Democratic Party. Chairman of the Security Committee of the Free Democratic Party."

That is how ex-General von Manteuffel described himself in his short autobiography printed in the "Official Handbook of the German Federal Parliament".

More Notes

And here are a few additional notes:

On February 18th 1945 Chancellor Adolf Hitler awarded General Manteuffel the highest Nazi medal "The Laurel Wreath with Swords and Diamonds to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross". In a speech of thanks for the award, Manteuffel stated:

"We know or feel at least a part of what is being suffered in these days by thousands of our suffering German people, and this will make us still more fanatical and hard in the fight for final victory."

Ten years later, on December 16th 1954, speaking in the West German Parliament in the ratification debate on the Paris Agreements establishing a new Wehrmacht, Manteuffel stated:

"I would not for one moment consider asking the young men whether they want to be soldiers or not. I refuse even to discuss the matter with the young people. What has to be done in the Federal Republic is decided by me and my colleagues here in Parliament."

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